

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Vermont

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Vermont

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 616,592 (July 2002 estimate); 608,827 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 96.2% white; 0.5% black/African American; 0.8% Asian; 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 1.1% two or more races; 0.9% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: Jim Douglas²
- Lieutenant Governor: Brian E. Dubie³
- Attorney General: William H. Sorrell⁴
- Secretary of State: Deborah Markowitz⁵
- U.S. Senate: James Jeffords (I), Patrick Leahy (D)⁶
- U.S. House of Representatives: Bernard Sanders⁷
- Capital: Montpelier⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Chittenden County, Vermont.
- The Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP)¹⁰
Established in 1996 within the Vermont Department of Health, this program helps Vermont citizens prevent, reduce and/or eliminate alcohol- and other drug-related problems. In partnership with other public and private organizations, ADAP plans, funds, manages, and evaluates a comprehensive, consistent, and effective system of substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Vermont:¹¹
 - FY 2002:
 - \$100,000 to Windsor Area Community Partnership, Inc., Windsor
 - \$98,500 to the South Burlington New Directions Coalition, Burlington
 - \$72,374 to New Directions for Barre, Barre
 - FY 2001:
 - \$63,593 to the Cabot Coalition, Cabot
 - \$99,083 to Chittenden Central Supervisory Union, Essex Junction
 - \$100,000 to the Flood Brook Community Collaborative, Londonderry
 - \$100,000 to Health Unlimited, Inc., Windsor
 - FY 2000:
 - \$62,841 to Chittenden East Community Partnership, Richmond

- \$68,416 to Milton New Directions Coalition, Milton
- \$84,840 to Greater Northfield Collaboration Council, Northfield
- \$99,830 to Franklin Grand Isle Community Partnership, Inc., St. Albans
- \$85,660 to Deerfield Valley Community Prevention Partnership, Wilmington
- FY 1999:
 - \$72, 926 to Catamount Partnership for Community Health, Bennington
 - \$99,839 to Orleans County Prevention Partnership, Newport
- FY 1998:
 - \$59,063 to Rutland Community Programs, Rutland
 - \$100,000 to Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Barre
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹²
No site in Vermont has ever received Federal funding or been officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotment Summary for Vermont:¹³
 - Formula Funding - \$6,224,141
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$4,691,812
 - Community Mental Health Service Block Grant - \$847,429
 - Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$384,900
 - Discretionary Funding - \$4,570,098
 - Mental Health - \$4,470,098
 - Substance Prevention - \$0
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$100,000
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$6,002,427
 - Total Substance Abuse: \$4,791,812
 - Total Funds for Vermont: \$10,794,239
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Vermont: \$2,344,472¹⁴
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Vermont:¹⁵
 - FY 1996: \$114,481
 - FY 1997: \$128,110
 - FY 1998: \$274,938
 - FY 1999: \$270,611
 - FY 2000: \$274,535
 - FY 2001: \$279,757
 - FY 2002: \$311,004
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipients in Vermont:¹⁶
 - \$125,000 to the Armory Square Apartments, Windsor
- Vermont did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The number of heroin arrests made by the Vermont State Police Drug Task Force (VDTF) increased from 2 in FY 1998 to 98 in FY 2002.¹⁸

Number of Drug Arrests, VDTF, Vermont, FY 1998-2002

Drug Type	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Marijuana	72	94	45	38	41
Cocaine	34	42	65	67	43
Heroin	2	16	25	46	98
Other	33	16	11	36	21

- During 2001, there were 2,963 drug offenses known to police in Vermont.¹⁹ In 1999, there were 2,441 drug offenses known to police.²⁰ There were 2,052 drug offenses known to Vermont police in 1997.²¹

Number of Offenses Known to Police, Select Offenses, Vermont, 1997-2001

Offense	1997	1999	2001
Homicide	9	17	8
Forcible rape	236	162	129
Robbery	68	87	112
Aggravated assault	357	421	447
Burglary	4,567	3,970	3,605
Larceny	15,140	12,676	12,925
Motor vehicle theft	922	975	839
Arson	185	180	138
Drugs	2,052	2,441	2,963
Liquor violations	1,857	3,666	2,896
Driving under influence	3,747	4,731	4,553

- During 2001, there were 1,285 total arrests (all ages) for drug abuse violations in Vermont.²²

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Vermont, 2001

Offense	Arrests
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	2
Forcible rape	43
Robbery	3
Aggravated assault	232
Burglary	233
Larceny-theft	1,068
Motor vehicle theft	96
Arson	24
Drug abuse violations	1,285
Driving under the influence	2,840
Liquor laws	525
Drunkenness	7

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 15 drug violation arrests in Vermont during 2001.²³

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Vermont, 1997-2001

Year	Drug Arrests
1997	48
1998	78
1999	101
2000	64
2001	15

Drugs

- Cocaine
Powder cocaine is readily available in Vermont, and crack cocaine is increasingly available in the more populated areas of the State. In 2001, powder cocaine sold for approximately \$100 per gram and crack cocaine sold for \$200 per gram.²⁴
- Heroin
Heroin is the primary drug threat to Vermont because it is increasingly available and the level of abuse is high and increasing rapidly. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of young heroin abusers in the State. The Vermont Drug Task Force reports that the price of a glassine bag (user dose) of heroin in Vermont ranged from \$20 to \$45 in 2001.²⁵ Heroin purity in Vermont ranges between 55% and 60%.²⁶
- Marijuana
Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly abused drug in Vermont. Marijuana prices reported in 2001 ranged from \$180 to \$250 per ounce.²⁷ On March 13, 2003, a bill allowing for the use of marijuana for medical purposes passed in the Vermont Senate. Upon Senate approval, the bill was placed in the House for review.²⁸
- Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine is not a significant problem in Vermont.²⁹
- Club Drugs
MDMA appears to be increasingly available in Vermont. Until June 2001, MDMA possession was not a crime under Vermont State statute.³⁰
- Other Drugs
The most commonly diverted pharmaceutical substances in Vermont are Vicodin, Fentanyl, oxycodone, Hydrocodone, methadone, Ritalin, Xanax and Diazepam.³¹ The abuse of OxyContin is of increasing concern to State and local law enforcement officials in several Vermont communities.³²
- According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 30% of Vermont citizens felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³³

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Vermont, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	13.61%	26.98%	4.87%	8.50%
Past month use of marijuana	10.62	24.60	4.05	7.26
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.22	9.71	1.67	3.03
Past year cocaine use	1.77	6.36	1.05	1.77
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	24.76	18.64	32.03	29.62

- According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.57% of citizens in Vermont reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁴

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, Vermont, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.80%	5.15%	0.83%	1.57%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.98	6.59	0.98	2.10
Alcohol dependence	2.13	5.42	1.87	2.33
Alcohol dependence or abuse	6.99	14.31	4.44	5.93
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	8.92	18.58	5.20	7.24

Juveniles

- During 2001, there were 190 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in Vermont.³⁵

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Select Offenses, Vermont, 2001

Offense	2001
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	0
Forcible rape	8
Robbery	2
Aggravated assault	30
Burglary	85
Larceny/theft	340
Motor vehicle theft	38
Arson	7
Drug abuse violations	190
Driving under the influence	23
Liquor laws	200

- Twelve percent of Vermont 8th graders, 23% of 9th graders, 33% of 10th graders, 32% of 11th graders, and 30% of 12th graders surveyed in 2001 reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the 12 months preceding the survey.³⁶
- Sixty percent of Vermont 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³⁷

Percent of Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Vermont, 2001

Drug Use Behavior	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	18%	33%	47%	56%	60%
Current marijuana use	10	20	31	35	36
Used marijuana before age 13	11	12	12	13	10
Used marijuana on school property	3	6	11	12	10
Lifetime inhalant use	12	13	13	14	14
Lifetime cocaine use	4	5	7	9	10
Current cocaine use	3	4	3	5	4
Used cocaine before age 13	3	2	1	2	1
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	4	5	5	6	4
Lifetime heroin use	3	3	3	4	3
Used heroin before age 13	2	1	1	2	1
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4	5	7	9	10
Lifetime hallucinogens use	6	10	14	23	24
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2	2	2	3	2

Enforcement

➤ Drug Investigation Unit³⁸

The Vermont State Police Drug Investigation Unit/Drug Task Force is charged with investigating drug trafficking throughout the State. Most officers assigned to this unit work with either the Northern or Southern Task Force and concentrate their efforts on mid- to upper-level drug dealers.

➤ In 2001, there were 1,097 full-time law enforcement officers in Vermont.³⁹

Trafficking and Seizures

➤ Vermont borders three States (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York) and Canada and has an extensive transportation infrastructure making transportation of illegal drugs into and through the State relatively easy.⁴⁰

➤ Cocaine and heroin traffickers in Vermont obtain the drug from source areas in Massachusetts and New York. Another source area for cocaine traffickers is Connecticut.⁴¹

➤ Marijuana is often brought into Vermont from the Southwestern U.S. using automobiles and tractor-trailers. Canada is another major source area for the marijuana found in the State.⁴²

➤ Approximately 250 kilograms of marijuana were seized by Federal agencies in Vermont during 2001.⁴³

Federal Drug Seizures, Vermont, 2001

Drug Type	Amount (in Kgs.)
Cocaine	3.7
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	0
Marijuana	249.9

- More than 3,700 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Vermont under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2001.⁴⁴

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Vermont, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Plots</u>	<u>Cultivated</u>			<u>Cultivated</u>
<u>Eradicated</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Grows</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Plants</u>
	<u>Eradicated</u>	<u>Seized</u>	<u>Eradicated</u>	<u>Eradicated</u>
163	3,351	19	418	3,769

- According to the DEA, no clandestine labs have been seized in Vermont since 1990, when a methamphetamine lab was seized.⁴⁵

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁶
As of January 2003, there were no drug courts in existence in Vermont. However, four drug courts were being planned at that time.
- During FY 2001, 41.3% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Vermont were drug offenders. Approximately 24% of the drug offenses involved heroin.⁴⁷

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Vermont, FY 2001

<u>Drug Type</u>	<u># of Offenses</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Heroin	11	24.4%
Powder cocaine	9	20
Marijuana	9	20
Crack cocaine	3	6.7
Methamphetamine	3	6.7
Other	10	22.2

Corrections

- The number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Vermont increased 2.6% from December 31, 2000, when there were 1,697 inmates, to December 31, 2001, when there were 1,741 inmates.⁴⁸
- Drug Testing Program⁴⁹
The Vermont Department of Corrections tests offenders in correctional facilities and under correctional supervision. Offenders are tested at admission, at random, and upon indication of use. Nearly 3,000 drug tests involving 575 offenders were conducted in August 2002. Approximately 8.4% of the tests were positive. This is less than the 14% of positive results in 2001. More than half (55%) of the positive tests in 2002 were positive for cannabis and 9% were positive for opiates.
- On December 31, 2001, there were 9,266 adults on probation and 899 adults on parole in Vermont.⁵⁰

Treatment

- During 2001, there were 7,047 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Vermont.⁵¹ In 2000, there were 7,136 treatment admissions.⁵² There were 5,911 admissions reported in 1999.⁵³

Admissions to Treatment, Vermont, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999		2000		2001	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	2,719	46.0%	3,164	44.3%	2,977	42.2%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,608	27.2	1,934	27.1	1,910	27.1
Cocaine – smoked	100	1.7	120	1.7	114	1.6
Cocaine – other route	109	1.8	131	1.8	136	1.9
Marijuana	889	15.0	1,083	15.2	1,079	15.3
Heroin	216	3.7	433	6.1	549	7.8
Other opiates	135	2.3	167	2.3	194	2.8
PCP	--	0.0	--	0.0	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	6	0.1	13	0.2	10	0.1
Amphetamines	13	0.2	26	0.4	10	0.1
Other stimulants	--	0.0	9	0.1	16	0.2
Tranquilizers	14	0.2	23	0.3	13	0.2
Sedatives	8	0.1	7	0.1	9	0.1
Inhalants	1	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0
Other/none specified	94	1.6	24	0.3	27	0.4
Total	5,911	100.0	7,136	100.0	7,047	100.0

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Vermont Governor Web site: <http://www.gov.state.vt.us/>

³ Vermont Lieutenant Governor Web site: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/lrgov/>

⁴ Vermont Attorney General Web site: <http://www.state.vt.us/atg/>

⁵ Vermont Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/>

⁶ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>

⁷ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>

⁸ Vermont Web site: <http://www.vermont.gov/>

⁹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ne.html

¹⁰ Vermont Department of Health, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) Web site: <http://www.state.vt.us/adap/adap.htm>

¹¹ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Vermont section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/vt.html>

¹² Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/index.html>

¹³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotment Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/State.htm>

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The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

